

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, March 8. 1711.

Variety always pleases this Age ; I have not done with the *French Trade*, which I shall prove we are blind if we do not lay open — I have not done with the *African Trade*, which I shall prove we are Mad if we do not secure — But a Word about the State of Religion must come in here, and particularly as it relates to your Neighbours in *Scotland*. — For you are bringing them on the Stage as fast as you can.

The sam'd Case of Mr. *Greenfields* is now decided before the House of Lords, and as we are told, the Sentence against him by the Lords of the Session is order'd to be

revers'd : I am none of those, that will suggest of that Honourable and Awful Court, that they will not do right — Yet am I none of those that will Compliment them, or any Body of Men in the World, with the incommunicable Attributes of their Maker, or say they are INFALLIBLE, and cannot mistake — Nay, I'll go farther, and tell you plainly, I will not say of them or any other Assembly in the World, that there are not Times, junctures, and Circumstances apter than others, to lead their fallible Lordships into Mistakes — *Tis farther*, nor will I say, that this is not a TIME and a CASE, in which they may be more

more likely to mistake, than ever happen'd before ; nay, I will not say, that I was not more apprehensive of their Mistaking in this Case, than ever I was of any Case that I remember to have been before them ; And lastly, I will not say that they have not mistaken, in the Steps taken in it at this Time : Yet in all this, I design no Disrespect to that most Awful and Honourable Assembly, and hope I have said nothing that can offend them.

I am not now to State the Case of Mr. *Greenfields* to the World, it has been Debated *pro* and *con*, in many large Tracts on both Sides, so that I need but refer the Reader to those Tracts; such as

A Narrative of the Treatment of the Episcopal Ministers, within the City of *Edinburgh*——Written in the Defence of Mr. *Greenfields*.

Presbyterian Persecution Examin'd.

The *Scots Narrative* Examin'd, and the late Treatment of Mr. *Greenfields* Stated, and Enquir'd into, where the whole Process is to be seen, and the World left to Judge, whether the Church of *Scotland* has been Guilty of Persecution, or no ?

The true State of the Case of Mr. *Greenfields*, &c. And an Answer call'd Remarks upon the said True State of the Case, &c.

Besides this, the whole Process against him in the Presbyteries, and the Court of the Magistrates at *Edinburgh*, is already altho' fully Publish'd, in Vol. VI. of these Papers, and to them I may content my self to refer the Reader.

But in my entering upon this Case, I think it is proper to touch at a Question, which more nearly concerns this Affair, than any yet spoken to, and that is this.

Whether is it the Personal Treatment of this single Man, that is the Substance of the Case that was depending before the Lords, or is it the Fate of the *Kirk of Scotland*, the Validity of the Union, the Honour and Justice of *England* to their Treaties and Sti-

pulations, that is now to come upon the Stage ?

We have an Author, who taking an un-govern'd Liberty to reflect upon every Thing, at last ventur'd at this, has let loose his stern Ports, fir'd his Chase Guns this Way —— And is now falling to Work with the UNION ; he tells us, that this Treaty was enter'd into, to please the late Ministry, whom in his abundant good Manners, he makes gross Reflections upon, that the Union was clap't up to cover an Examination into the passing the A & of Security ; that the Queen was nam'd to every Thing —— But as another Author says, the *Sovereign Authority was parcel'd out among the Faction, and made the Purchase of Indemnity for an Offending M——r.*

Tho' this is hardly Sense itself, yet the Design is plain, viz. To suggest to the World, that the Union was a Whig Plot, a Shift of a Politick Minister, to shelter himself from Resentment at a past Error, that the Queen was brought in by the Prevalency of a Party, not by her Majesties own Inclination ; That giving such a Sanction to a Presbyterian Faction as they are call'd, meaning the Church of *Scotland*, was not the Queen's Design, nor was it consistent with her Majesty's Zeal for the Church of *England*, and the like,

I shall not rake for in this Filth, nor shall I meddle with any Thing of it, but what relates to the Queen herself, in which I think her Majesty is Treated very Barbarously ; let the Union be made how it will, it is made ; many solemn Pretences were made to *Scotland*, of kind Treatment, &c. and her Majesty at the close of it, laid it as her own Command upon us all, to perform it ; how well we think of either, begins to appear but too plainly in the Temper of the Age, and I wish we do not give the *Scots* Reason to Complain —— But as to her Majesty espousing the Union, and the Sincerity of her Royal Intention in it, which these Authors so foully Reflect upon ; I shall only Answer it, by asking the Authors the following Questions——Which I shall be glad to see an Answer to.

1. Pray

1. Pray Sir, Did the Queen so earnestly press the Union, as to tell the Commissioners She had nothing more at Heart, and that she should count it the greatest Blessing of her Reign — Hypocritically, and only to please her Servants, or Honestly, as her Majesty's own real Sentiments?
2. Did the Queen Prevaricate with the Scots, in all the Solemn Expressions of her Zeal for the Union, and her being sensible of its being a Blessing to the whole Nation? — Which Expressions I have here at the End of this Paper, repeated out of her Majesty's own Speeches? Or did her Majesty speak Honestly and Uprightly her true Meaning, and her Zeal, according to Knowledge? —
3. Would they tell us in so many Words, and Dispute it with any Body, Whether have the greatest Advantage by the Union, *England* or *Scotland*? — And especially as we are like to use the Scots in their Church Affairs.
4. If they determine for the latter, will they procure the former to Dissolve it again, if the latter are willing? And will they pretend to suggest, that the latter will not be willing? — And give some Authority better than their own?
5. Will they bear with me in saying what I'll make out at any Time? — *Viz.* He that affirms the Treaty of Union was not a Work of her Majesty's Inclination, Founded on her Zeal and Pious desires, for the Peace and Prosperity of her whole Kingdom and of all her Subjects, and for the Securing the Protestant Succession, and upon her firm Belief, that it was the most proper means to that End, is a Traytor to his Country, gives the Lie to the Queen, and rudely Contradicts what her Majesty has most Solemnly affirm'd.
6. Let them tell me how these Reproaches and Reflections upon this Affair, a-

gree with their Obedience to her Majesty's Commands to her Subjects, when she pass'd the Act of Union, express'd in these Words; *I desire and expect from all my Subjects of both Nations, that from henceforth, they Act with all possible Respect and Kindness to one another, that so it may appear to all the World, they have Hearts dispos'd to become one People: Vide the Queen's Speech to the Parliament, at her Majesty's passing the Act of Union.*

When they have answer'd these Questions, I shall offer a few more; and Enquire farther as before, Whether the Affairs of Mr. *Greenfields*, as I noted above, be not rather a Plot laid against the Union, than an appeal for Personal Justice to the Man, and if I discover this Snake in the Grass, they that have no Mind to be stung, will step warily, and forbear to tread upon it.

Here follow the several Expressions of Her Majesty's Concern for the Union, taken out of her own Words, and refer'd to, in the former part of this Paper.

May 4. 1706. Her Majesty's Speech to the Commissioners, during the Treaty in London.

My Lords,

I Am so much concern'd for the Union of the two Kingdoms, that I could not satisfy myself without coming before I went out of Town, to see what Progress you had made in the Treaty, and so recommend very earnestly to you, the bringing it to a happy Conclusion, with as much dispatch as the Nature of it will admit, not doubting of the General Satisfaction which my Subjects of both Kingdoms will receive, in finding you overcome all Difficulties, to attain so Great and Publick a Good.

June

June 26. 1706. Her Majesty's Speech to the Commissioners, during the Treaty in London.

My Lord,

I Am come hither once more, to see what farther Progress you have made in this Treaty, and to Press a speedy Conclusion of it, in regard my Servants of Scotland cannot without great Inconveniencies, be much longer absent from that Kingdom.

July 23. 1706. Her Majesty's Speech to the Commissioners, on the Conclusion of the Treaty in London.

My Lords,

I Give you many Thanks for the great Pains you have taken in this Treaty, and am very well pleased to find your Endeavours and Applications have brought it to so good a Conclusion; the Particulars of it seem so reasonable, that I hope they will meet with Approbation in the Parliaments of both Kingdoms; and I shall always look upon it as a particular Happiness, if this Union (which will be so great a Security and Advantage to both Kingdoms) can be Accomplish'd in my Reign.

March 19. 1707. The Duke of Queensberry's Speech to the Scots Parliament, at the End of the Treaty in Scotland.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I It is a great Satisfaction to the Queen, that the Union is thus happily Concluded in her Reign, and I'm Commanded by her Majesty to assure you, that nothing shall be omitted on Her part, to make the whole Island feel the good Effects of it.

ADVERTISEMENT.

W Hereas the single Pay-Tickets of 14s. per Ann. being the Annual Interest of the Blank Tickets, and the single Pay-Tickets of the Prizes, being the Annual respective Payments of the said Prizes, are order'd to be deliver'd out at the Exchequer, to the several Proprietors of the said Blanks and Prizes, and are now to be receiv'd there by the said Proprietors— If any Person is dispos'd to Sell the Ten, Fifteen, or Twenty last Years of the said Tickets, there is a Proposal which shall be ready to be made, for Purchasing the same at Reasonable Rates for ready Money— Any such Person may hear farther of it, at the Printer's of this Paper.

MEMORANDUM.

I Had purpos'd to have given you in this Paper some Remarks, upon two other Cases now depending in Parliament, and which make a mighty Bustle about nothing.

1. The great Struggle whether the River *Keweenaw* shall or shall not be made Navigable?
2. The great Question about the Bakers, Whether they shall be Punish'd as the late Act directs, or in Proportion to their Offences? I would advise some of them to have a care of the last, for fear of the Consequences.

But I must adjourn this for a Day or two,

N.B. A Gentleman who sent the Author of this a Letter about the *French Trade*, Sign'd J. S. is desired to know that his Letter is received, and due Respect shall be had to it in my Prosecuting that Subject; and if he pleases to give any Name to direct to, he may be Answered more particularly.